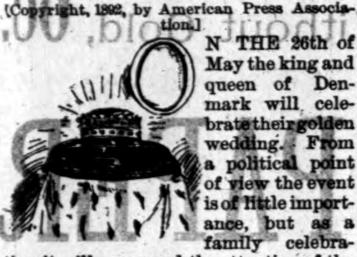
Fortunate in His Marriage and in His Family-The Princess of Wales, the Empress of Russia and the King of Greece Among His Children,



command the attention of the world. Americans care little for kings and queens, but brave men and true women are more admired and better appreciated in the United States than in any other part of the world. Under such circumstances I do not much care to write on this particular occasion of Christian IX and Louisa, as king and queen of Denmark, and all the Wendes and Goths. They are only very small potentates among the crowned heads of Europe, and their country is not much larger than Ohio and has less inhabitants than that state; but I like to write of their standing as man and wife, as father and mother. As such they are entitled to our highest esteem and have set a shining example to all the world.

ne manque rien a un roi qui la douceur to encourage these arts. She prefers de la vie privee," which means that painting to music, however, and is herkings have everything except the sweet- | self an artist of no mean ability. Many ness of family life. In King Christian's a poor village church possesses an altar case history very emphatically contradicts this utterance of the great French moralist. The king's public life has been one constant trouble ever since he ascended the throne on Nov. 15, 1863. As a matter of fact he has been one of the most tried sovereigns of Europe. The war with Austria and Prussia cost him Sleswick-Holstein and Lauenburg, and he has been in chronic feud with his parliament, and ministerial crises seem perennial in the little kingdom. He detests democratic ideas, but his subjects adhere to them and consequently as a ruler they do not love him. As man and father, however, they adore him. The popular ditty of which the refrain runs, "It is a fine family, that of King Christian," had no derisive meaning when the populace sang it beneath the royal windows on a raw November evening in 1888.

As husband and wife the royal Danish couple are among those fortunate parents whose children are a credit and honor to them, settling in life and adorning exalted positions with a grace and dignity which would be recognized even in a republic, where honesty, frugality, temperance and virtue are regarded as the qualities which befit a noble character. Among the daughters of the royal couple we think first of the beautiful Princess of Wales; then of the czarina of Russia, whose stately lot involves so much solicitude that no simple American wife need envy her crown and throne; of Thyre, the duchess of Cumberland. tall and handsome as a lily. The sons are Prince Frederick, heir apparent to the throne of Denmark; George, king of Greece, and Prince Waldemar, the sailor. The latter also could wear a crown like his father and brothers and sisters but he did not care to. His kingdom is the seas, and when the Bulgarians asked him to step on their throne he wisely declined.

The private lives of the king and queen have been blameless and irreproachable. As parents the Danish sovereigns have been blessed with all the happiness that heaven can bestow on mortal beings.

The king is the fourth son of Duke William of Sleswick-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glucksburg and was born April 8, 1818. Like many other German princes he had little of this world's riches. As a poor princeling he chose his wife, not so much staying there, but when all the children for her beauty as for qualities which would insure a happy future. He married Princess Louisa, daughter of the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, on May 26, 1842, at Copenhagen, she being his senior by one year. They were a handsome couple and much admired. He manly, tall, erect; she fair and sweet like a precious flower of womanhood.

Many tales are told of how their daughters, now sovereigns themselves, made their own dresses, trimmed their own hats and took their turns in keeping house, so as to relieve their royal mother. At that time it was not unusual to see them driving out all squeezed in one carriage-father, mother and six children. The king was then a superior officer in the Danish army, and lived



THE KING AND QUEEN. with his family partly in Copenhagen and partly in Jugenheim and Frankforton-the-Main. It is said that Duke Christian, who at that period was not even nominated presumptive successor to the Danish crown, increased his small income by giving drawing lessons. Once a gypsy happened to meet the three young princesses in Jugenheim and insted on telling them their fortunes. Alexandra was to wear a double crown

of queen and empress, Dagmar would de over a vast empire, and Thyre would have a queenly title, but no kingdom. The three young girls laughed heartily, and little did they dream then that that gypsy told the truth. Today they know that she did, and none of the sisters has ever forgotten this strange incident in heir lives. Though the home of Duke Christian was devoid of luxury and

splendor, yet a happier household was not to be found all over Europe. How happy in fact the family life of the royal couple must have been is proved by the eagerness shown by all the absent children to come home.

King Christian and Queen Louisa have thirty-six grandchildren, all of whom look longingly forward for the approach of the annual visit to their grandparents. There the grown up and little ones enjoy a life of unlimited freenom, and it is refreshing to behold how well all these English, Russian, Greek and Danish cousins harmonize.

The queen is not only a sovereign, but also a queen among women. Indeed King Christian was a fortunate man when he conquered the love of so noble and good a bride. Though she is seventy-five years old now, she does not look more than fifty-six. She is still handsome, and with regard to brightness, good judgment and gifted nature few women, if any, can excel her. But more precious than all these qualities and a greater treasure than the crown she wears is her heart of gold. If any woman is beloved in Denmark it is she. Her graciousness of manner and her kindly looks win the hearts of all.

Few ladies in private life are as active as this queen. She rises early and attends to almost everything personally in her household. Her day is occupied from morning until night. Besides, she keeps up an extensive correspondence with her three absent daughters and her son, King George of Greece. "No one can write nicer letters than mamma," says her royal highness the Princess of

Her leisure hours the queen devotes to De la Bruyere once said of kings, "Je music and painting, and she does much iece painted for it by her. Though she has a thorough understanding of music, her deafness somewhat interferes with her enjoyment of musical sounds, a weakness which unfortunately also affects the Princess of Wales.

Foreign artists are always welcome in Copenhagen—the Venice of the north,







ALEXANDRA. THYRE.

KING GEORGE.

as it is called abroad. Both king and queen seldom miss a concert or a "premiere." During summer the court of Denmark

offers a sight probably the most unique in the world. Bernstorff is the name of the royal summer residence.

It is situated a couple of miles from Copenhagen and near to the deer park Dyshaus, of which all Danes are very proud. The queen is especially fond of and grandchildren come visiting, Bernstorff is too small and the court moves to Fredensborg, near Elsinore, the spot to which cling so many associations of the ill fated Prince Hamlet. The castle was built a century and a

half ago by Frederick IV on the shores of Lake Esrom in commemoration of the peace between Denmark and Sweden. At this idyllic sylvan spot even the ezar and the ezarins are able for awhile to forget their anxieties. When Fredensborg is filled with visitors, excursions to Copenhagen are frequent, and the hearts of the Danes beat high when they see the empress of all the Russians with her sister, the Princess of Wales, and her brother, the king of the Hellenes, walking quietly about the streets shopping. The emperor of Russia prefers the country, and being more of a sportsman, like his royal father-inlaw, both ride, walk and shoot frequently together.

One of the greatest delights of the king is to play with his little grandchildren, and he can often be seen seated in a cramped up position in a diminutive pony carriage trusting himself to the care of a very youthful coachman. After dinner Queen Louisa will generally induce her daughters to join her at the piano, and often they have played eight handed on two pianos.

Etiquette and ceremony are banished and the family leads the pleasant life of grands seigneurs seeking relaxation from worldly obligations. Early in January the court moves into Copenhagen, and from that time begins the season at the capital, which lasts until the 8th of April, the king's birthday. During this time the king can often be seen walking in the streets with no other attendants than two collie dogs, one of which is a present from Queen Victoria. In the evening when there are no court receptions the king and queen visit the opera or a concert lot IAH INNE to

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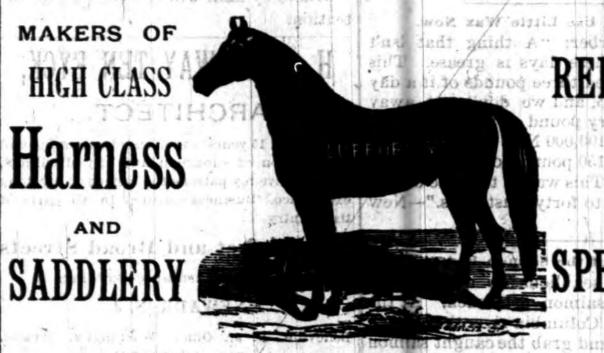
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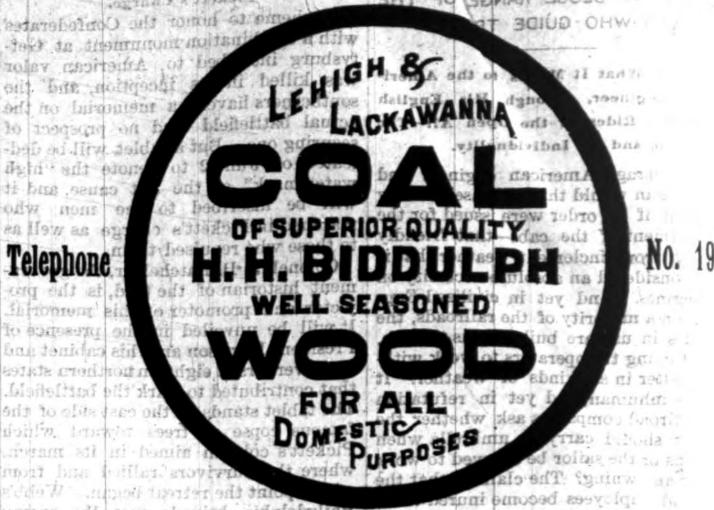
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